

Ship said carrying arms to Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Greek-registered vessel carrying a shipment of Serbian weaponry was reported by U.S. officials to be heading towards Somalia. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the vessel is believed to be preparing to stop at the Kenyan port of Mombasa, perhaps Tuesday. According to the officials, international efforts have been made to persuade either the Greek or the Kenyan government to take steps to have the vessel inspected. The shipment of Serbian weapons would violate two United Nations embargoes — the ban on trading with Serbia and the prohibition on shipping arms to the Somalis. The Greeks and the Serbs have long been allies. The New York Times, which first reported the suspicious shipment in Tuesday's edition, said the weapons are believed to have been purchased from the Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement, an arms export agency for Yugoslavia, which now embraces Serbia and Montenegro. The paper, quoting unnamed American officials, identified the ship as the *Bana 1*, although it was previously called the *Marta*. The officials told the paper that the vessel appeared to have changed its name in an effort to evade the trade embargo and deceive Western intelligence.

Volume 17 Number 5242

000 Sudanese
stun home—
UNA

HARTOUM (R) — Over 5,000 southern Sudanese have returned to areas captured by the government after years of control by northern rebels, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday. SUNA said they had returned to the town of Wau, a stronghold of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) until the government retook it last year, and to other areas on the road between Torit and the southern capital Juba. For 10 years, Sudan has been rocked by a civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced at least three million southern Sudanese. Equatoria state Governor Major-General Arif Ali Arik called on international relief organisations to apply Tora and other areas re-taken by rebel control, SUNA said. Government forces took advantage of rebel splits and captured 14 towns and villages in major offensive last year.

Iran transport
minister under fire

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's parliament (Majlis) Tuesday tabled a motion of non-confidence against the minister of transportation, citing recent air and train accidents in which 285 people were killed. Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said Mohammad Saeed Ky had 10 days to appear before parliament to defend allegations against his ministry. The petition was signed by 40 members of the 270-seat house, the radio said. The summons cited 11 complaints against the minister, the radio said, including "inability to utilise available means to establish secure air traffic" and "implementing changes without reason in the management of the national airline and the civil aviation authority."

Turkey to reopen
Baghdad embassy

NKARA (AP) — The Turkish embassy in Baghdad will reopen with the arrival of the chargé d'affaires next week, a government official said Tuesday. The official said the diplomat would stay in Baghdad permanently beginning March 4. Turkey withdrew its diplomats from Baghdad following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The official said the presence of the Turkish diplomat in Baghdad would allow Turkey to track political developments.

Urks to take U.S.
court for damages

NKARA (AP) — Relatives of the Turkish sailors killed when a U.S. aircraft carrier fired on a Turkish destroyer will go to court to demand higher compensation, a defense minister said Tuesday. The sailors were killed when a Sea Sparrow missile fired by a U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga hit the Turkish destroyer during exercises in the Aegean sea. Defence Minister Nezar Al-Nazir told parliament that the government helped the families with an agreement with a U.S. firm to pursue the case. Istanbul Talay, a deputy for the People's Republic Party, said the United States offered to pay a compensation of \$250,000 to the families of the victims. However, said if the victims were American citizens the payment would be three times higher.

N. to send more
observers to S.
Africa

JANNESBURG (AP) — The United Nations has decided to send another 10 observers to South Africa to bolster the 50-member team studying political violence. A U.N. spokesman said today. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended the total 10 members in a report submitted to the Security Council. The world body agreed to observe the peace process in South Africa after the June massacre in a township south of Johannesburg. The massacre led crucial negotiations between the white-led government and African National Congress, which accused security forces of involvement. It prompted N. debate on political violence. At least 9,000 have been killed in the past three years.

(Continued on page 5)

GERALD STAVIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

الإذاعة والتلفزيون

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1993, RAMADAN 3, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Christopher pushes compromise in talks with Israelis, Palestinians

Israel says it is 'ready' for speedy judicial review of exiles, asserts expulsion is not government policy

Combined agency despatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE Warren Christopher turned to Israelis and Palestinians Tuesday for help in resuming stalled Mideast peace talks, as Israel offered assurances that expelling Palestinians was not a government policy.

Israel also indicated that, without fanfare, it would speed up its review of Palestinian expulsion cases. The aim, Israeli officials said, is to give the Palestinians a "face-saving" gesture that should enable them to agree to resume negotiations over self-rule in April.

Trying to smooth over the festering controversy over Palestinians expelled to Lebanon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after seeing Mr. Christopher that "deportation is not a policy of the government." He called last December's expulsions "an exception."

Mr. Christopher wants Israel to expedite appeals from Palestinians expelled last December on suspicion that they incited anti-Israeli violence. And he wants the Palestinians to accept a compromise and agree to return to negotiations in Washington in April.

Israeli officials, while offering more rapid review of the expulsion cases, at the same time stressed that the ultimate decision on whether the Palestinians would be repatriated from Lebanon was



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem Tuesday (AFP photo)

not up to the government but to courts.

Appeals would be handled by military courts that are independent of government influence.

On the last and toughest leg of his first Middle East tour, Mr. Christopher met Israeli and Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials called the two-hour meeting with Mr. Rabin useful. Palestinians said their talks were dominated by the expulsion crisis.

Asked if he would return to the Washington talks Palestinian delegate Elias Freij said: "It rests in the hands of Mr. Rabin."

"The question of the deportees is an essential element which has

Gazan shot dead

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, the 50th Palestinian killed since Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon in December, witnesses said.

Palestinians said Awad Al Surdi, 29, a male nurse at a United Nations clinic, was shot while standing on the roof of his home in the Rafah refugee camp during demonstrations.

They said troops wounded 12 other people.

Palestinians said he was killed 10 minutes before dark on the second day of the fast of Ramadan.

Palestinians said soldiers earlier wounded five Arabs in clashes in Khan Younis, near Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. They said a 65-year-old man was shot in the head.

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Two Palestinian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said Mr. Christopher was to be assessed at the meetings that

(Continued on page 5)

Sharaa: Evictee crisis still a hurdle

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Two teams of U.N. weapons inspectors left Baghdad Tuesday after the most intensive hunt they have yet mounted apparently failed to locate Scud missiles.

The teams rushed to three military installations Monday to check what they called very important information on Iraq's long-range missile programme.

An Iraqi official said they found nothing. A team leader declined to confirm or deny this but in comments to reporters indicated the inspectors were leaving Baghdad empty-handed. "We were checking very specific information related to prohibited items," Nikita Smidovitch told reporters before departing. "Best to check and close this issue."

Mr. Smidovitch, a Russian, headed a team of 21 arms experts which flew in to Baghdad to join forces with another 13-strong team under Frenchman Patrice Palanque. The United Nations believes Iraq is bidding missiles in defiance

of the terms of the ceasefire which followed the Gulf war.

Mr. Smidovitch said Monday questions on whether inspectors had found any Scud missiles should be addressed to the special commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Smidovitch, an Iraqi official in charge of coordinating the inspectors' movements, said on Monday: "This is great proof that we are hiding nothing."

The special commission teams are supposed to ensure that Iraq fulfills the Gulf war ceasefire conditions to dismantle its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles with a range over 150 kilometres.

Mr. Smidovitch said Tuesday the U.N. believes that gaps still existed in Iraqi information on ballistic missiles and the U.N. would be sending more teams to fill them in.

"There are gaps and the Iraqis are fully aware of that and we have discussed that on several occasions."

Rabbani extends ceasefire

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has announced an extension of a fragile ceasefire in the shell-shattered capital Kabul for the fasting month of Ramadan.

In Mogadishu, supporters of Somalia's another warlord stoned cars and threw up barricades of flaming tyres in Mogadishu Tuesday in protest against alleged U.S. support of Gen. Morgan.

Scores of changing followers of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed, accusing the Americans of backing Gen. Morgan, used burning to block off Mogadishu's main road leading to the U.S. embassy.

The same road leads to the logistics support headquarters of the U.S.-led multinational force in the country.

Protesters stoned passing cars but reporters on the scene could not tell whether anyone had been injured in the darkness.

While the demonstration went on, Gen. Aideed spoke on Radio Mogadishu, denouncing the multinational task force. He accused the foreign troops of backing Gen. Morgan.

No new fighting was reported Tuesday, and U.S.-led coalition forces were trying to arrange a meeting with clan elders supporting Col. Jess. Representatives of Gen. Morgan met with the U.S.-led coalition forces and said they were willing to turn over their weapons if they could remain in Kismayu.

Presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said the government considered new peace terms put

(Continued on page 5)

More Israelis now favour Palestinian state, poll says

TEL AVIV (R) — More Israelis are willing to return territories, deal with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and deal with the possibility of a Palestinian state," centre deputy director Joseph Alpher said.

The survey showed little change in feelings about an Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty with Syria, despite nearly 16 months of peace talks between the two countries.

The poll found six per cent were willing to return all of the strategic plateau to Syria, the same as in 1987. It showed 46 per cent opposed any withdrawal from the Heights, down from 49 per cent in 1987.

The poll, conducted in the first half of January, did not touch on the expulsions. Mr. Alpher said the questionnaire was prepared before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government expelled 415 of his government.

"This shows that the Israeli public are strategically dovish.

Women married to non-Kuwaitis demand rights

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis turned to their parliament Tuesday to demand jobs for their husbands.

"My children wish they were Sri Lankans. At least they could work," said Khainya Nasrallah, the widow of a stateless man who lived in Kuwait most of his life.

She has three sons who can not go to college or find a job because they lack citizenship.

About 7,000 Kuwaiti women married to stateless Arabs, Iraqis, Palestinians and nationals of other countries which were seen as supporting Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait find themselves in the same predicament.

Over 50 crowded into the visitors' gallery at parliament, meeting after a two-week recess, to listen to lawmakers discuss a letter of complaint they had sent earlier. Guards confiscated a banner they planned to unfurl.

(Continued on page 5)

Christopher comments on Syrian troops irk Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's call for Syrian forces to be withdrawn from major Lebanese population centres has ticked the government, which had sought to keep the thorny issue dormant to avoid rekindling political differences.

"This is a matter that concerns only Syria and Lebanon," President Elias Hrawi said. "It will be addressed after the Lebanese army completes reestablishing state authority over its entire territory."

Mr. Hrawi's statement was released by his office shortly after Mr. Christopher's two-hour visit to Lebanon Monday.

Mr. Christopher, the first senior U.S. official to visit Beirut in a decade, flew in by helicopter from Cyprus as part of his effort to rekindle the Arab-Israeli peace process.

After talks with Mr. Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buz, Mr. Christopher said the United States "looks forward to full implementation of the Taif accord," which laid the groundwork for the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. "In that con-

(Continued on page 5)

Senate passes press law after reversing stand on 'journalist'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a surprise reversal of its previous decision to abolish a clause on the definition of journalists in the draft press and publication law, the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Tuesday voted to reinstate the provision as presented by the government. The clause restricts recognition of journalists to those

who fulfill conditions included in the effective Jordan Press Association (JPA) law and who practise journalism in accordance with its provisions."

Twenty-four of 29 deputies present voted in favour of a motion by Senator Salem Masadeh to adopt the government's definition of journalists before approving the draft law.

Dr. Masadeh argued for reinstating the clause on the grounds that its abolition refers the definition of journalists to the 1983 JPA law, which is a temporary one and needs to be revised. His proposal was seconded by Sen. Mohammad Rasoul Al-Kellani.

Jordanian journalists welcomed the Senate's decision as much as the

journalists freedom committee, told the Jordan Times.

The Senate's vote, however, did not spell the end of the debate on the controversial clause, which is expected to be amended by the Lower House when the draft legislation is referred back to it.

The House has the legal right to accept or reject the Senate's amendments, stuck by its original vote on it or introduce new changes. The House cannot reconsider articles that were not amended by the Senate.

A member of the 22-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the House told the Jordan Times Feb. 12 that his bloc would move a proposal to amend the article in favour of non-JPA members.

Representatives of the various blocs of the House told the Jordan Times earlier they would support such a motion, while Mr. Ne'man said his group will launch a new lobbying campaign with the House.

In its session Tuesday, the Senate also voted to keep article 56 of the draft law which prescribes punishments for violators of provisions of the draft law for which

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. inspectors leave Baghdad after failed search for Scuds

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questions on whether inspectors had found any Scud missiles should be addressed to the special commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The special commission teams are supposed to ensure that Iraq fulfills the Gulf war ceasefire conditions to dismantle its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles with a range over 150 kilometres.

No ballistic missile has been found in Iraq since March 1992, although Western intelligence experts estimate there may be 100 to 200 hidden away.

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Copts in Egypt 'feel alienated'

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

CAIRO — Magdi is only nine years old but he already knows that to be a Christian in Egypt is to be different. He tells other children he is a Muslim so they will agree to him.

Imad Atiyeh is 14 and has never been to a Muslim's house or had a Muslim friend home. "They make fun of us at school, they humiliate us, curse us and refuse to play with us...they provoke fights with us to beat us," said Imad Fayed, 21.

Antoine Sidhom, publisher of Al Watani newspaper, mouthpiece of the Copts, said discrimination has hit a record in schools where Muslim fundamentalist teachers "squirt out the poisons of hatred into the souls of Muslim students against Christians."

Coptic children, too young to realise what it all means, say fanatical teachers have been inciting Muslim students not to play with them, accusing them of being "atheists and infidels."

Students said extremist teachers have scrapped Christian philosophies from the curriculum and replaced them with Muslims.

Egypt's six million Christians belong to a variety of different churches but are often referred to simply as Copts, the largest sect which is headed by an Egyptian pope. They are among the country's richest and best educated people but still feel like second-class citizens and, faced with a rising tide of Muslim fundamentalism, many are emigrating.

Building or even repairing a church requires government permission which can be hard to obtain but almost anybody can build a mosque without restrictions.

Copts say they are denied top posts in public life, police and army. Scholarships, they say, go to Muslims first.

The best example they give is the man who is probably the world's most famous Copt, Boutros Ghali. He was able to become U.N. secretary-general but was never appointed Egyptian foreign minister, even though he was deputy minister for years.

About 90 per cent of Egypt's 59 million people are Muslims, many of them descended from Christians who converted in the centuries after Muslim General Amr Al Aas conquered Egypt at the dawn of the new religion more than 1,300 years ago.

Those who remained Christians are the ancestors of the present-day Copts who lay claim to a tradition of Egyptian Christianity stretching back to the first century. Even the word "Copt" is linked to the word "Egypt," they say, the ancient pharaonic name for the country adopted by the Romans.

"I am not different from a Muslim. I am even superior to him. I study more than him and work harder. I graduated with distinction and when I went looking for a job I found that he got the job first," said Jouhaimi Sobhi, 24.

Discrimination affects the ability to earn a living. Yasmine Saad, a shopkeeper, said: "Muslims go to Muslim shops to buy goods. They don't come to us because we're Christians."

The solution for many has been emigration. Over the past

15 years, Coptic sources believe as many as half a million frustrated young Christians have left for Canada or the United States in search of brighter prospects.

"I know I don't have a chance here. When I get the means to emigrate to Europe or Canada I will," said Imad Fayed, 21.



PROTEST IN JERUSALEM: A mother of a Palestinian expellee and her daughter demonstrate for the return of the Palestinians Israel expelled to South Lebanon on Dec. 17 as U.S. Secretary of State

Philippine minister takes look at Gulf workers

DUBAI (R) — Philippines Labour Minister Nieves Confesor, on a mission to investigate conditions of her country's workers in the Gulf, said she saw a 13-year-old girl employed as a housemaid in Kuwait.

"That girl should not have been allowed to leave the Philippines," she said Monday night before ending a visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Ms. Confesor did not elaborate on the circumstances in which she saw the child or what happened to her.

"This is a problem that should be straightened out in Manila," she said.

But she told a crowd of Filipino residents in Dubai the Philippine government did not plan to prohibit its people from working as maids in the Gulf despite frequent reports of abuse by employers. Such a ban would be circumvented anyway, she said.

"If the government imposes a ban, then illegally-recruited maids will go to Singapore and Bangkok and then catch a flight to the Gulf. I cannot post an immigration official in Bangkok to prevent them from coming here," Ms. Confesor said.

"There is an existing ban on the deployment of maids in Kuwait but they continue to go there through transit points in Dubai," she said.

The Philippines stopped maids going to Kuwait after the Gulf war in 1991 because of widespread abuses.

About 300 Filipinos are now taking refuge in the Philippine embassy in Kuwait out of an estimated 9,000 in the country, the consul-general in Kuwait, Wences Quirolgo, said Monday.

Ms. Confesor said the flow of Filipina maids to the Gulf would stop only when the economy improves back home.

"Our workers should have a choice of what job to do and where to go," she added.

About half a million Filipinos, including engineers, medical personnel, labourers and maids, work in the Middle East. Many are there illegally without permits and are vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous recruiters and employers.

Filipinas make up most of the 100,000 foreign maids in the UAE, where residence laws prohibit embassies from sheltering those who flee their employers for alleged abuses.

In such cases they are housed in an immigration department detention centre.

Sri Lanka said in November it was setting up a welfare fund in the UAE for a hostel where Sri Lankan maids can take refuge from employers they say mistreat them.

Ms. Confesor said that during her four-day visit to Kuwait, she reached agreement with the authorities on measures to curb abuse of Filipino maids.

Mr. Quirolgo said Kuwait had also pledged to help the 300 maids to go home.

5 sentenced to death in killing of Algerian forces

ORAN, Algeria (AP) — Five Muslims accused of killing a policeman and a soldier have been sentenced to death by a special court in this northwestern Algerian city.

It was the first trial held under three secret tribunals set up by special decree last October to deal with cases of alleged terrorism.

Three other defendants were given prison sentences of five years, and four were acquitted by the secret court, whose judges cannot be identified in the press.

The prosecution had earlier Monday asked for four death sentences and prison terms of 10 years.

The trial opened Sunday of the 12 Muslim militants, who were accused of murder, conspiring against state security and organising armed groups.

They were on trial for the assassination of the two security personnel and attempting to kill another policeman and soldier.

Among the defendants were two teachers, a college professor

and several employees of public enterprises. Their leader, Abdul Salam Mohammad, had told the court that he had been tortured during his detention.

The court was one of three set up last October to deal specifically with extremist attacks, which have increased dramatically in the past year.

Along with two other courts, in Algiers and Constantine, the tribunals will try some 3,500 people arrested during the unrest that has engulfed the country since parliamentary elections were cancelled January 1992.

Algerian fundamentalist candidates were on their way to sweeping to control of the national assembly when an army-backed committee forced President Chadli Benjedid to resign, and installed a junta-like ruling council.

Skirmishes have continued since then between armed Muslim radicals and police and soldiers, leaving some 600 people dead, including 250 security personnel.

Amnesty: Morocco, Polisario still violating human rights

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Tuesday that Morocco and its adversary the Polisario Front continue to violate human rights in the disputed Western Sahara despite the presence there of United Nations personnel.

The independent London-based group said in a report that human rights guarantees under a 1991 plan agreed by the United Nations, Morocco, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Polisario Front have not been respected.

"Despite the existence of U.N. personnel on the ground, hundreds of people of Sahrawi (Western Saharan) origin have reportedly been arrested or otherwise harassed on suspicion of supporting Western Saharan independence or for participating in peaceful protests," it said.

"Hundreds more Sahrawis, who were arrested by members of the Moroccan security forces between 1975 and 1988 remain 'disappeared,' reportedly held in secret detention...without charge or trial," it said.

"Abuses by the Polisario Front (include) detention of prisoners of conscience, long-term incommunicado detention, torture and death in custody of suspected opponents in the Polisario camps in Tindouf" in western Algeria, it

added.

The five-page report said the 1991 plan included a renewed proposal for a U.N.-supervised referendum to determine the future of the Western Sahara.

The report said Amnesty International takes no position on the conflicting claims to the Western Sahara or on who should be eligible to vote in the referendum.

But it said the organisation was concerned that provisions for freedom of expression and the release of political prisoners laid down in the plan have not been respected.

The Western Sahara, formerly the Spanish Sahara, was split between Morocco and Mauritania in 1976 after Spain withdrew from its former colony in December 1975. In 1979, Mauritania renounced its claim to its share of the territory, which was added by Morocco to its area.

Morocco's annexation is opposed by the Polisario Front guerrillas, who want the territory to become an independent state.

On Aug. 30, 1988, Morocco and the Polisario Front accepted an initial U.N. peace plan. Under that plan, a ceasefire was declared and a referendum was to be held in January 1992 to determine the future of the area.

Excavation findings add credence to 'The Iliad'

TROY, Ohio (AP) — Archaeological findings in the ancient city of Troy in modern-day Turkey show evidence that the Trojan war described by Homer in "The Iliad" may have occurred, archaeologists said Monday.

Manfred Korfmann, an archaeologist at the University of Tuebingen in Germany, said he could not say for certain that the Trojan war described by Homer as happening in 1300 B.C. really occurred.

But he said his excavation of Troy has revealed a much larger city than previously believed, including fortifications, palaces and cemeteries — things that Homer must have known of when he wrote "The Iliad" in 730 B.C.

Experts previously had doubted Homer's account, saying such a war would be unlikely to have been a small city.

Mr. Korfmann and Brian Rose, an archaeologist from the

University of Cincinnati, are part of a team that has been excavating the site since 1988. They described their work and presented findings to students in Troy, Ohio, which is trying to establish a sister city relationship with Troy, Turkey.

The two plan to discuss their findings later this week at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The fortification wall of the city went much further south and encompassed a much larger area than we ever thought before," Mr. Rose said. "Now we can see there are more details with respect to 'The Iliad' that seem to be appropriate. There's more of it in there."

Mr. Rose said the team's work has added to the knowledge about that period of time.

"You can't separate Troy from 'The Iliad' of Homer. 'The Iliad' is at the foundation of Western

civilisation as the best of our literature," he said. "So what we're doing is trying to explain the background of 'The Iliad' and the effect 'The Iliad' had on that site and in a sense on the whole Mediterranean world."

Mr. Rose said the ancient Romans viewed the Trojans as their ancestors and that the excavation shows that Augustus, the first Roman emperor, had Troy rebuilt after it was destroyed in the 1st century B.C.

Experts have said that any such war probably was caused by Troy's power and strategic importance and not the kidnapping of Helen.

Troy was first excavated by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1871. Since then, archaeologists have argued that the citadel was too small to have been the Homeric Troy.

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Homer wrote that the war be-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be southwesterly light to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate etc and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Anman 2 / 16
Agaba 7 / 22
Deserts 0 / 17
Jordan Valley 3 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Anman 16, Agaba 23. Humidity readings: Anman 31 per cent, Agaba 25 per cent.

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swielet, Tel. 111740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Assumption, Tel. 374740.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassine Church Tel. 622366

Dr. Zaid J. Al-Sabti (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 983417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637177
Fire Brigades 897288
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 664202
Furas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055
Nairnukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsiati pharmacy 637660
Nairnukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647672
Telecommunications (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101
Arab Telephones Reports 661101
Jordan Television 737111
Radio Jordan 734111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

IRBD: Princess Bassia Hospital 02275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272255
Im Al Nafes Hospital 02267100

QMAA: Prince Haya Hospital 03934111

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadafi Maternity, J. Aza 6442816
Akhlich Maternity, J. Aza 642441/2
Jaber Alman Maternity 642362
Mahas, J. Aman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
AJ-Mustaq Hospital 6672279
Talitha Al-Aziz 66612707
Al-Jabi, Al-Aziz 664146
Ishaia, Al-Husseini 771011/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775112/6
Army Marks 891611/13
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amd Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 091983323
Zarqa National Hospital 091980560
Zarqa Sea Hospital 091986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 091989990

DUBAI, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 022-45
Kuwait (RJ) 022-15
Jordan (RJ) 022-25
Larnaca (RJ) 022-25
Adana (RJ) 022-45

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:45 London (RJ)
16:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:55 Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)

18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:45 Rome (RJ)
23:45 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Brunei and Guyana

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent cables of good wishes to Sultan Hassan Balkieb of Brunei and President Hugh Desmond Hoyte of Guyana on the occasion of their countries' national day. The King wished the Sultan of Brunei continued happiness and the Brunei people further progress and prosperity. He wished President Hoyte continued success in the leadership of his country.

Parliament to study French loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has referred to Parliament a draft financial protocol with the French government, whereby Jordan will receive a French loan of 80 million French francs (JD10.4 million) to purchase French commodities and French services. The loan is repayable over 20 years at a one per cent interest rate, with a 10-year grace period. Part of the loan will be used to help finance one or two development projects in Jordan, according to sources quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday.

Judiciary panel approves articles of draft tenants law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Judiciary Committee Monday approved four articles of the draft tenants and landlords law. The House Education Committee met Monday to review higher education policies in Jordan and problems facing Jordanian universities.

Finnish journalist receives Jordanian medal

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday conferring on Finnish journalist Rita Tainoli the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Third Order in recognition of her constant efforts with regard to Jordanian interests in Finland.

Bulgarian trade minister leaves Jordan after 5-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgarian Deputy Premier and Trade Minister Valentine Karbachev left Amman Tuesday, ending a five-day visit to Jordan. The Bulgarian official met with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, as well as other officials, to discuss trade between Bulgaria and Jordan. Mr. Karbachev also held talks with the Director-General of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the president of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade to discuss boosting the volume of trade between the two countries.

Traffic department reports casualties

AMMAN (Petra) — Five people were killed and 139 others were injured in 426 car accidents during the second week of February, according to the Traffic Department. The department said the number of accidents during this week rose by one compared to the week before, and the number of deaths dropped by one. Last month the department reported that 38 people were killed and 255 others were injured in 1,744 car accidents in Jordan. The department attributed 18.3 per cent of the accidents to traffic violations, 21.4 per cent to reckless driving, 12.9 to inattention and 8.9 to loss of control over vehicles. Deaths rose by four compared to the month before, and the number of accidents dropped by 66, the department said.

JMA opens board nomination period

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Tuesday announced that the period for nominating candidates for the association board has opened for two weeks. The board will have a two-year mandate as of April. The announcement said elections will be held on April 16. JMA members currently number about 10,000.

UNDP contributes agricultural equipment to ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has contributed agricultural equipment to the Ministry of Agriculture for use in the ministry's project to develop the highlands and in implementing range and afforestation plans. Director of Range and Afforestation Mr. Azzam Mneicie received the gift from U.N. resident representative in Jordan Othman Hasheem.

Electrification of Irbid's rural areas to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Irbid District Electricity Company, Abdul Raouf Al Sheik, announced a plan for the electrification of rural regions during 1993. Mr. Sheik said the plan entails laying 1,600 kilometres of cables.

Tafihah to get new vocational training centre

TAFIHAH (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has purchased land in Tafihah to build a vocational training centre. VTC Director at Tafihah Governorate Abdil Hamed Al Jufout said the planned building will consist of two parts; one each for female and male students. Meanwhile, the Tafihah Development and Employment Fund (IDEF) reported that it had granted more than JD14,800 in loans to citizens in the Tafihah Governorate. Mr. Jufout said the VTC offers facilities to citizens wishing to apply for loans from the IDEF. He said the VTC has thus far received 144 loan applications, adding that it also offers consultation to owners of small projects and helps them in preparing feasibility studies.

restigious award goes to Jordanian architect

AMMAN (J.T.) — Architect Mr. Tukan received the award during a recent ceremony held in Doha, Qatar, the permanent base of the award. In 1988 the SOS Children's Village in Tareq, designed by Mr. Tukan, won the city of Amman the "Arab City Award" offered by the OAC.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed date and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

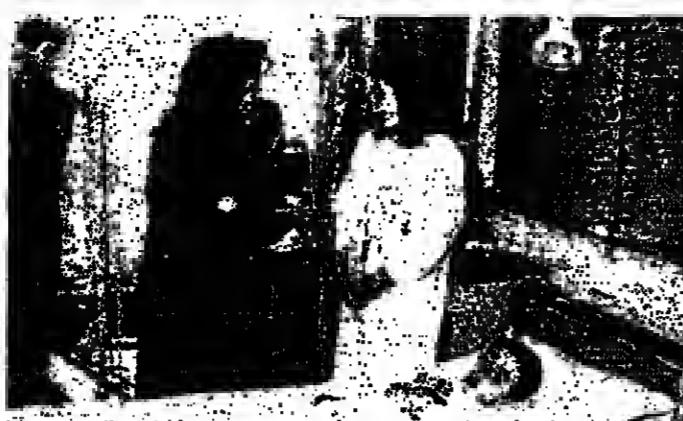
Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suhai Nouris and Afaf Zarayk — at the Abdil Hamed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Alnas Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fradi and Amer Mejjel at Alia Art Gallery.

FILM

British film entitled "When Eight Bells Toll" at 7 p.m. at the British Council (94 min.).



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visits with young patients at Al Hussein Medical Centre (Petra photo)

Princess Basma begins 3rd annual charity campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday launched the Third Annual Charity campaign in Jordan by visits to hospitals and poor districts in Amman governorate and urging the public to contribute generously to benefit needy families during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Princess Basma, who is honorary chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees visited Um Tineh district in east Amman and met with its poor families to enquire about their living conditions and their needs.

She supervised the distribution of in-kind assistance which included blankets, mattresses, blankets and children's food to 30 poor families. The princess instructed QAF staff to follow-up on the care of the poor in Um Tineh.

Princess Basma's next stop was at Al Bashir Hospital, where she talked with kidney patients and visited the nuclear treatment unit.

The Princess, who was accompanied by Amman Governor Issa Omari, and other officials from the Ministry of Education, visited Al Hussein Medical Centre and inspected the paediatric unit. She met volunteers involved in the fund-raising campaign at the Sharq Al Onsat Circle area and

Hashemite and Abdali districts and thanked them for their efforts.

At least 10,640 volunteers, mostly scouts, are involved in the campaign which is being conducted in all governorates.

Since early morning Tuesday scores of scouts, carrying boxes to collect coins and wearing special badges, toured various districts, stopping at homes and traffic lights to collect contributions for the needy.

Upon announcing the campaign earlier this month, Princess Basma said some of the families will be granted loans to help them start their own income-generating projects, and needy students with excellent records will receive financial aid to continue their education at community colleges and universities.

She added that women in rural areas will be offered equipment such as sewing machines, and farmers will receive sheep and goats. The handicapped she said, will be given wheelchairs or hearing aids.

Princess Basma said the campaign should foster the concept of social solidarity among members of the Jordanian community during Ramadan.

The Ministry of Education is among a number of departments helping in the campaign.

Ministry to study, update procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade is conducting an analytical study of the administrative procedures followed by the ministry, in order to simplify and update them at various administrative levels, according to Secretary General Marwan Awad.

Mr. Awad said the study will attempt to identify the legal and administrative grounds for the procedures currently in force and the possibility of facilitating such procedures and avoiding duplication of work.

He added that the ministry's Administrative Development and Training Department carried out a study to identify the authorities at various administrative levels, in order to further decentralise procedures and delegate authority to the various administrative levels.

Mr. Awad said the organisational structures of most departments at the ministry have been reconsidered and assistants or deputy directors have been appointed.

Irbid area's new passport offices serve 100,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Registration and Passports Department last year opened a number of offices in the Irbid area to serve some 100,000 people, according to Department Director Nasrou Muhiyeddin.

This step on the part of the department should facilitate procedures and decentralise the work, in line with the government's administrative development policy, Mr. Muhiyeddin said. He added that new offices were opened in Deir Abi Said, Bani Kanahah, Jarash, Ajloun, Ramtha, North Shabeta to ease pressure on the Irbid Civil Registration and Passport Department.

The Director called on citizens living in these areas to transfer their civil registration files to their places of residence in order to benefit from the newly-opened offices.

Irbid Mayor Sami Isheibah praised the civil registration department for this step and stressed the importance of coordination between the department and the Ministry of Education to facilitate the issuance of passports to students finishing their Tawjihi examinations.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED

Services of executive secretary is immediately needed for the period of twelve months, with the following qualifications:

1. Proficiency in speaking and writing Arabic and English with translating skills.
2. Extensive experience with Word Processing "WORDPERFECT", and spread sheets.
3. Good administrative and office experience.

Interested candidates with the above required qualifications may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the Administrative Assistant:

National Center for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer
Technical Assistance and Services Office
Baqa - Jordan, Telephone: 725411 / 2, Fax: 679677
Applications must be delivered by hand by 14:00 hours of February 28, 1993.

International Community School

(The British Curriculum School in Amman)

The International Community School, in Khilda, requires primary teachers from September 1993. The successful applicants must have full British or equivalent, teaching qualifications and be up-to-date with current principles of good primary practice.

Interested candidates are requested to contact the School Office for further details & application form as soon as possible.

Tel.: 841070 Fax: 847109

RESEARCHER / WRITER WANTED

A Jordanian publishing company seeks to hire a full-time researcher / writer to join a small team of professionals producing publications and other materials on a wide range of subjects, including politics and diplomacy, maternal and child health, education, banking, the economy, archaeology, and tourism.

The successful candidate should be Jordanian, fully bilingual in Arabic and English, and capable of assuming responsibility for research, writing, and production of publications. Computer and journalistic experience are both useful.

The work schedule is a 40-hour, 5-day week, the post requires regular contacts with people outside the office, in person and by phone. Salary is commensurate with experience, qualifications, and capability.

Qualified applicants should mail a CV to:

The General Manager, Publishers,
P.O.Box 9446, Amman-Jordan or fax it to 696751.

Qualified candidates will be contacted subsequently for an interview.

More needs to be done for bedouins, peasants, visiting German students say

By Samir Barhoum
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of German students, on a 16-day visit to Jordan, said the Kingdom should pay more attention to development projects in the countryside and badia regions.

The 20-member Berlin Free University group, who were on the trip to get acquainted with development projects in the Kingdom as part of the requirements of a course at the university's Centre of Development Studies, also underlined the need for the Kingdom to focus more on the environment and to exert more efforts in tackling ecological problems.

The group, led by two professors from the Centre of Development Studies, made several excursions to various parts of the Kingdom, to familiarise themselves with bedouin and peasant life in Jordan.

Jorg Janzen, who is accompanying the students along with his colleague Volker Franzmueller,

said Jordan should focus on environmental problems.

"These problems should be more in the centre; the government should maintain the environment for future generations because environment is the basis of living and economy," said Dr. Janzen who teaches social and economic geography at the Berlin Free University.

"I read in books that Jordan at a short time ago was a paradise. Now this paradise is destroyed (because of the increase in population and the haphazard urbanisation process)."

The Azraq Oasis in east Jordan is an example of the destruction of natural sites in Jordan, he said, referring to the pumping of water from the Azraq area to Amman and the depletion of underground water sources.

Dr. Janzen said his students were divided into five groups; each spent one week in a certain area of the country to study the development projects in the countryside and badia regions.

Each group was accompanied by students from the University of Jordan's Department of Geography. The areas under study were Kashaa Sleitien in Al Mafrag Governorate, Sweimeh in the Jordan Valley, Maen, Al Alouk in Zarqa Governorate and Al Rumman in Amman Governorate.

"To meet the demand for food by the increasing population, more and more areas have to be used as farm land, which means a loss of grazing land for the nomads," the student added.

The students observed and studied nomadic and rural life, livestock owners, the effect of development projects on residents, vertical grazing systems, range projects, soil erosion and the effect of afforestation on local life, as well as other issues.

Dr. Janzen said the students' interaction with the bedouins and peasants of Jordan made them believe that the government is not doing enough for these segments of its population. The government is carrying out projects, but these are not enough, they said.

One student, Martin Pallegen,

summarised the position of the group by saying that they believed there was a conflict be-

twixt the interests of the settled and the nomadic population concerning the use of land as grazing areas.

"To meet the demand for food by the increasing population, more and more areas have to be used as farm land, which means a loss of grazing land for the nomads," the student added.

He emphasised the cultural importance of the visit saying it comes at a time when ethnic sentiments and racist attacks against foreigners are becoming a serious problem in Germany.

The delegation, which arrived in Amman Feb. 6 left Monday for Aleppo, Syria, and is due back in Amman on Thursday, for departure to Germany Friday morning.

The delegation was hosted by the Ministry of Social Develop-

Bar association presidency candidates voice individual calls for improving the JBA

AMMAN (Petra) — One of nine candidates running for the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) presidency in next month's elections has called for an amendment to the association law, and called for a change in Articles 43 and 50.

The change and the amendments, he said, are designed to make it imperative for all firms, banks and other organisations to employ lawyers. Marwan Al Husseini, a third candidate said he aims to stimulate the role of Jordanian lawyers in the local community and echoed Mr. Abu Hweij's idea of making it imperative for all Jordanian firms to

name their own lawyers.

Should he be elected, Mr. Husseini said, he would help work out a system to collect five per cent of lawyers' incomes to finance a health scheme for them and their families.

Candidate Kahlaf Massadeh said he would fight for the establishment of a lawyers training college. Mr. Massadeh said he aims to stimulate the role of Jordanian lawyers in the local community and echoed Mr. Abu Hweij's idea of making it imperative for all Jordanian firms to

name their own lawyers working in that particular governorate.

Omar Damra, a fifth candidate, said he would defend the interests of the association and at the same time would work towards improving and raising the level of the profession.

The other candidates for the president's post are Jawad Yunis, Ahmad Abu Aqila, Assad Kamal Al Saadi and Kamal Nasar.

Association sources said 51 lawyers are running for the nine-member board.

Another candidate for the presidency, Fahmi Abu Hweij, supported the idea of introducing amendments to the association law, and called for a change in Articles 43 and 50.

The change and the amendments, he said, are designed to make it imperative for all firms, banks and other organisations to employ lawyers. Marwan Al Husseini, a third candidate said he aims to stimulate the role of Jordanian lawyers in the local community and echoed Mr. Abu Hweij's idea of making it imperative for all Jordanian firms to

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AMMAN (J.T.) —

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Travel forward in time

IT IS BAD enough that cumbersome border crossing procedures exist between Arab states, but to consolidate border posts between them by spending scarce money is disappointing to all Arabs who aspire to remove impediments to Arab unity. Over the past several years, Jordan has spent some JD 9 million on a new post on the border with Syria, not to perpetuate the permanency of these borders but rather to render them more manageable, reasonable and efficient.

Jordanians and Syrians, not to mention other nationalities, endure a lot in crossing borders between their countries, not only because of lack of proper infrastructures to accommodate easy travel between them but also because of the heavy bureaucracy and security measures that prevail over such inter-Arab travel. As long as there are sovereign Arab states which guard the inviolability of their territory, there will always be a need for modern border posts. This is what Jordan has decided to do and that is exactly what Syria and other Arab countries had done in the past. The least that Arab nations expect, however, is to render travel and commerce between Arab states more in line with what is happening elsewhere in the world. Arabs are envious, and rightly so, of the ease with which Europeans, for example, travel between one European country and another, even before the European Community was established. Elsewhere in the world, there are in place regional arrangements to make communication and transportation among countries of the region less time-consuming and less bureaucratic.

Jordan and Syria did in the past endeavour to make travel between them more efficient and less cumbersome but unfortunately those efforts have not produced the desired results. The two countries can still build on past experiences by not only building new infrastructure for their mutual boundaries but also by making the crossing procedures the envy of other parts of the Arab World. One particular problem touches on passport processing, which is time-consuming and more often than not causes undue hardships to travellers from both countries. Formalities for cars are also unduly difficult and expensive. The problem of issuing insurance to vehicles travelling from one country to another can be solved, by synchronising policies and procedures, and this would facilitate land transport immensely. And since Jordan is embarking on a major highway connecting the capital to the Syrian border, it would be appropriate to link this Jordanian thoroughfare with the Syrian highway linking the Syrian southern part with Damascus.

All such measures are important even though they will never replace the urgent need for Arab unity, if not politically, then economically through the creation of a common market that would serve the interests of all Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHILE DECLARING his optimistic feelings about the prospect of resuming the Arab-Israeli negotiations soon, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher failed to say whether he has succeeded in ensuring a just settlement to the Palestinian expellees problem, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The paper said that the Arabs want a clearcut statement concerning the repatriation of the expellees in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, said the daily. The Arabs were surprised to see the United States concluding a deal with Israel over the expellees question, accepting Mr. Rabin's decision to return only 100 of them and refusing to sanction Israel's defiance of the Security Council's orders, added the paper. It said that the resumption of peace negotiations is important, but what is more important is a firm world community forcing Israel to comply with the international legitimacy and the U.N. resolutions. The paper said that Mr. Christopher is invited now to examine the whole situation clearly and objectively and should not restrict his mission only to ensuring the resumption of peace talks, without arriving at settlement to the expellees question.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, is critical of the public attitude towards criminals who continually plague our society. Many people saw the assailant who attacked the owner of a bookstore in Tabarbour in the early hours of the day, last week, and watched him escape without taking any step towards helping his arrest, said the writer. Likewise, the attacker who hit a shopkeeper by the First Circle, Jabal Amman, two days ago, was allowed to escape though a crowd of people were standing by, doing nothing, the writer added. One should not take this matter lightly and allow criminals to roam around the country while hoping that the police might catch them one day as it is the duty of the society to help catch these criminals, demanded the writer. Responsible citizens ought to act responsibly and help the cause of justice by apprehending the criminals who could be buring anyone, any time, continued the writer. He said that lack of action on the part of the public in this matter reflects lack of cooperation between security services and the public and also manifests the public's ignorance of the fact that by catching thieves they will be rewarded and will be well-protected by the law.

Economic Forum

Socio-economic tensions

By Dr. Abdallah Makhfi

A LOT of the socio-economic tensions brewing now in our society will subside if our fiscal targets, as ordained in the economic adjustment programme, are modified as to make them more realistic or, in other words, more "Jordanian". The government, especially the Ministry of Finance, has to wage exhausting and fierce media and public relations campaigns every time it wants to introduce any measure of those prescribed in the programme. And this headache will last throughout the next five years. Probably, the worst is to come when the "political bills" of the international economic "assistance" offered to Jordan under the programme start to fall due or become visible.

The budget deficit has to be phased out over the next four or five years. To do that, a host of measures have been, or will be, initiated. Domestic revenues have to be boosted via excessive taxation: public expenditures are checked in a way that has damaged the fabric of social and economic infrastructure, (especially the quality of public services). Price subsidies have to be phased out. Now these measures differ from other measures, such as floating interest rates, because they have direct bearing on the livelihood of the populace. And worse still is that they will be

carried out at the most unfavourable time in the history of Jordan when a tough combination of unemployment, high living costs and stagnant wages and salaries is squeezing the average Jordanian household.

Apparently, the programme had overemphasised the question of the budget deficit, as it treated it as the starting point for the whole process of adjustment. It should have put such stress on the stimulation of production. Elevated levels of production generate more jobs and tax revenues and they tend to dampen, through augmented supply, inflationary pressures. In the presence of a rational import policy, they are also capable of cutting the trade deficit. The fiscal targets of the adjustment programme are specified in terms of percentages to gross domestic product (GDP). When GDP rises, the percentages of the deficit shrank without a drop in the absolute values of the deficit.

However, if it is too late to revert back to the basic variable (GDP) and its growth — and this seems to be the case — the easing of socio-economic tensions calls for the relaxation of the budget deficit targets. Instead of closing the fiscal gap by say, 1997, the terminal year may be postponed to 2000. This shift will

make it possible to freeze tax increases which have recurred in a way which left taxpayers short of breath. The removal of subsidies can also wait until the very last year of the programme, or one or two years later, by which time the anticipated expansion in GDP shall have boosted jobs and per capita incomes to levels that enable consumers to bear the consequential increase in prices. In the meantime, the treasury can afford the much-demanded instant, but reasonable, increase in salaries and wages, meant to heal past and present deeply-felt grievances.

Admittedly, the above conception is a scenario which borders on utopia more than on real life. The problem is one of a deep-rooted mentality that does not accommodate any possibility of adjusting the goals of the economic adjustment programme. Consequently, the ongoing policy goes on to "twist the arms" of the society in conformity with the harsh stipulations of the programme and does not envisage any relaxation of its targets. Hence the socio-economic tensions.

The question that should be seriously pondered by politicians, not by technocrats or economists, is: can the society and economy take more tensions and for how long?

The peace process cannot replace the quest for a just peace in the Middle East

by Clovis Maksoud

"The principle of deportation is being realised," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it all after Israel reached a compromise agreement with the United States. This negotiated compromise has expedited Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East in an attempt to salvage the peace process. What remains to be seen is how this can be done.

It appears as if Mr. Christopher's decision to visit the Middle East means that resuming the peace process takes precedence over Israel's full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 799. The U.S. decision also, however, ensures at least temporary paralysis and puts into jeopardy the future credibility and effectiveness of the U.N. Security Council. In fact, this misplaced sense of priority puts the Arab parties to the peace talks in a predicament which can eventually undo the process.

My intention is not to dramatise the consequences of what the U.S. consider a "reasonable" compromise with Israel. It is, however, to demonstrate that though the compromise seems to provide either from the predicament of being accused of implementing double standards or from an early confrontation with a traditionally and friend, the decision actually brings a volatile situation closer to explosion.

True, there are Arab governments willing to facilitate the U.S. task on this critical issue, but they are doing so at the risk of further compounding an already complex and dangerous situation. Their eagerness to establish ties with a new and unfamiliar U.S. administration might lead to a popular impression that they are helping to pressure rather than support the Palestinians. In return for being described as "moderate," these governments hope that the present crisis will witter away. As a result: the primary issues are glossed over; Israel has

brought time; the U.S. is temporarily relieved; and the U.N. Security Council realises once again that its writ is inconsequential and inapplicable where Israel is concerned.

Arabs will be further frustrated and a pervasive sense of humiliation will deepen with a disposition that only extremism can restore their dignity if not secure their rights. The willingness to accept the U.S. accommodation of Israel becomes associated with "moderation" and futility.

The U.S. stance might have been grudgingly palatable if the Arab people, and especially the Palestinians, knew which Israel was being accommodated. Hence lies the legal significance and the serious political implications of Mr. Rabin's statement, "...the principle of deportation is being realised," because this said it all.

A state has the prerogative to deport undesirable aliens. The definition of deportation is "the removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial, always to their country of origin." It is clear, therefore, that if "the principle of deportation is realised" by this proposed compromise between the U.S. and Israel, then Israel is treating it as ratifying its right to deport, at will.

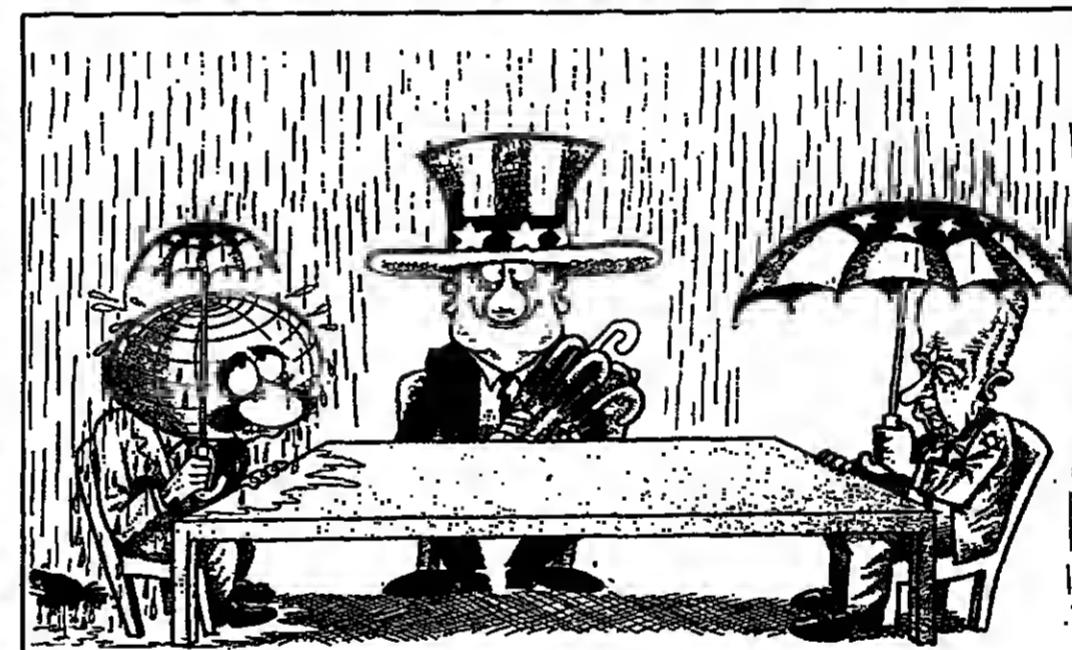
The Palestinians can then be regarded as aliens while the Geneva Convention, to which the U.S. abides, considers them "protected inhabitants" in occupied territory and not aliens or deportables. This is the basis of Arab opposition to the "compromise."

Israel considers the arrangement with the U.S. a successful undertaking on its part to derail

the U.N. from forcing it to recognise its responsibilities and obligation as an occupying power in the occupied territories. Though this has been the strategic objective of successive Israeli governments, the massive deportation of more than 400 Palestinians brought into sharp focus the real cause for the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Rabin's statement, asserting the right of Israel to deport, should have prompted the U.S. to insist on full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 as a condition for the U.S. to resume the peace process.

By acquiescing to this political expedient but legally flawed compromise, however, the U.S. has severely damaged, perhaps irreparably, the peace process.



M. KAHIL

Peace process falters, but Arabs still seek settlement

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians Dec. 17 put the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks in jeopardy and dumped a crisis in the lap of the Clinton administration.

But the problem may provide a catalyst for progress towards ending one of the world's most intractable conflicts — one which several sides already have powerful incentives to resolve.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's move incensed the Arab World and was highly embarrassing for the United States.

Yet, for the Arabs, Mr. Rabin's action was in one way beneficial. It alienated Israel in the international community and pushed the Americans into intervening to press the Jewish state into making concessions — as the Arabs had been demanding for months.

As the Israelis struggle to wriggle out the corner in which Mr. Rabin's miscalculation landed them, they lifted their ban on direct contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

With the Israelis on the defensive, the Arabs have sought to press their advantage.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, now on a Middle East swing to get the peace talks back on track, convinced the Israelis Feb. 1 to agree to take back 101 deportees now, and the

rest by the end of the year. That falls short of the U.N. Security Council's resolution calling for all the men be repatriated immediately. But the Israelis' uncharacteristic retreat could be parlayed into further concessions.

The Palestinians say they will boycott the peace talks until all the deportees — alleged members of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas — return to the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon are displaying growing impatience with Israel's intransigence and the United Nations' failure to enforce its resolution with the same resolve it has shown toward Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Whether they will walk out if Mr. Christopher cannot pressure Israel to toe the line is open to question. They all have an interest in keeping the peace process going.

Syria, increasingly realigned with the West following the collapse of its Soviet mentor, cannot afford to jeopardise the political and economic benefits it hopes will come its way if the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict is settled.

The Israelis are dangling the prospect of a separate treaty with Syria and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967.

But after decades of portraying itself as the vanguard of the Palestinian cause and insisting on the return of all occupied Arab land, abandoning the Palestinians

would be political suicide for Syria's regime.

In Jordan, King Hussein insists that any settlement must be comprehensive.

On the face of it, the Palestinians are in the greatest jeopardy.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has staked everything on securing a settlement, even one that falls far short of the PLO's long held objective of an independent Palestinian homeland in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israelis are prepared only to discuss limited autonomy for the occupied territories, with no guarantee of eventual independence. Radical Palestinians, such as Hamas, want the PLO to quit the talks.

Hamas and other Syrian based factions seek nothing less than Israel's destruction. Others, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will settle for negotiations for an independent homeland.

The Palestinian negotiators' failure to secure tangible changes in the occupied territories has bolstered the radicals' strength among the 1.7 million Palestinians there, undermining the PLO.

Sari Nusseibeh, a senior adviser to the PLO-controlled Palestinian delegation to the talks, noted that even before the deportations "public faith in the talks was wearing thin."

"Now, I'm sure the majority is against continuing. It puts a great burden on the PLO leadership."

Whether this will salvage the peace talks is unclear.

Mr. Rabin's deportations blunder has undermined his position in Israel and raised questions about whether he can retain the domestic authority to make the concessions the Arabs insist must be made if the talks are to succeed.

There appears to be a growing Israeli sentiment that talking to the PLO could boost the more moderate Palestinians and heighten the chances of a settlement.

Whether this will salvage the peace talks is unclear.

Mr. Rabin's deportations blunder has undermined his position in Israel and raised questions about whether he can retain the domestic authority to make the concessions the Arabs insist must be made if the talks are to succeed.

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A window of opportunity

To the Editor:

At the heart of today's modern political debates almost everywhere in the world lies the issue of human rights. It is evident that this matter had moved to global centre stage only in the last decade, and for very good reasons too.

Jordan was no exception to those countries of the world aspiring to defend the rights of its citizens and diligently working to preserve their individual dignity. There is ample evidence to suggest that this country has become a leader in this respect in the Arab World.

But, as is often the case, there is no lack of individuals who would blindly clutch to any moving wagon while clumsily claiming to be its main driving force. There are figures familiar to most, who give the impression that they draw support from all quarters of society and who, while declaring their lives had suddenly become devoted to the single matter of defending human rights, spare no time in giving public speeches and making their seemingly selfless interests known to all (especially the media).

Fortunately, deeds speak louder than words, and the image of a human rights defender they so earnestly try to portray crumbles against the scrutiny of only an amateur observer.

For these impostors, human rights, deep in their minds, remains an alien thought, but nonetheless an indispensable opportunity to further their political or personal ends. In the reality of their views, the issue is seen as divisive, irrelevant and a source of fractiousness and destabilisation.

The sad fact is that some of those who muffle criticism in times past — or called for it for that matter — still hang on to that dim, short vision of the future. Their concept of human rights remains at best undefined and at worst distorted.

In sum, people have reason to be sceptical about the intentions — and perhaps the motives — of a handful of society's figures who have suddenly espoused the most noble cause of all, but whose careers are replete with visible shifts tailored to suit every political wind prevalent at the time.

Nabil Bandah,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Senate passes draft press law

(Continued from page 1)

here are no specified penalties. The House had voted to abolish his article.

The Senate also amended article 46 to ban members of the profession from receiving "financial assistance or gifts" from local or foreign groups unless the minister of information approves that.

The Senate's amendment corresponds with the government's version of the article which was amended by the Lower House to prevent journalists from receiving such aid at all, abolishing the phrase which allows journalists to receive assistance if the minister approves.

Ironically, Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif argued against the government's view on the issue, telling senators that the minister should not be involved in this matter and supporting the House amendment.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs and Senator Ibrahim Izzeddine, who drafted the law when he was minister of information, voted in favour of

the Senate's amendment.

Earlier, the Senate amended article 6 item (d) of the law to give journalists the right to keep their sources of information secret unless ordered otherwise by a court of law during trial of cases pertaining to national security, attainment of justice and prevention of crime.

As originally passed by the House, the article would have forced journalists to divulge their sources to the judiciary, which senators said includes the general prosecutor.

The Senate's amendments to the controversial law, which was condemned by many journalists as oppressive, will now be reviewed by the Lower House which has the legal right to reject them. If the Senate stands by any amendments rejected by the House, a joint session of the two Houses will be held and the decision that is endorsed by a two-third majority will prevail.

The Senate consists of 40 members while the House includes 80 deputies.

Christopher comments irk Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

went to Damascus for talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Hartti was later quoted by several Beirut radio stations as saying after the pre-dawn meeting with Mr. Khaddam Tuesday that the redeployment "is not a problem. The problem is Israel's occupation of the south."

Lebanon's reassurances to Syria are a flat admission that the Beirut government feels its fledgling 42,000-strong army was not strong enough yet.

Israel occupies a self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon ostensibly as a buffer against cross border guerrilla raids on its northern flank. The zone covers 1,100 square kilometres, approximately one tenth of Lebanon.

Israeli shell Lebanon

Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled villages in South Lebanon Monday killing a U.N. peacekeeper and a civilian, securing

its sources said.

A Nepalese peacekeeper was killed and another seriously wounded when two mortar bombs fired by South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunmen hit their post in Yater village, U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) spokesman Timur Goksel said.

Israeli forces and SLA militiamen lobbed dozens of shells near the villages of Kafra, Yater, Sidqigne and Sribine — areas where the Hezbollah group is active, the sources said.

A 38-year-old civilian was also killed and his sister, 30, was wounded when shells hit Yater, the sources added.

Israel asserted its forces were not responsible.

The UNIFIL casualties were the first this year, Mr. Goksel said. Some 180 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed since the 5,400-strong multinational force began its mandate in Lebanon in 1978.

Christopher pushes compromise

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians were committed to pursuing peace but demand that Israel stop expelling people from the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources previously have said that their delegates would be willing to consider returning to the talks if a schedule for returning the evictees was determined and if Israel agreed not to use explosions again.

Earlier, a senior Israeli official told American reporters in a breakfast briefing that his government wanted the United States to use a "light touch" in assisting the parties once they got back to the bargaining table.

"We need a bridge builder," he said, "but we have to negotiate ourselves."

The negotiations recessed in mid-December after Israel had made some headway in separate talks with Syria and Jordan on territorial and other disputes. But the Palestinians found little that was acceptable in Israel's proposal for limited self rule on the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Rabin agreed on Feb. 1 that the two-year exile terms of the expellees should be halved, and 101 of the Palestinians repatriated right away.

The deal, and the proposed appeal procedure, fall short of Palestinian demands for enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for immediate return of the expellees.

In Mar Al Zohour, Lebanon, the Palestinian evictees said Tuesday Israel's offer of a phased return home was not acceptable even though Mr. Christopher said it was.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, leader of the 396 men, said they would all leave their camp in south Leba-

non or none would.

"Our decision is clear: We refuse to return even if the return was in stages, even if it was within a week and even if the number was 395," Dr. Rantisi said at the tent camp.

Dr. Rantisi said Mr. Christopher had failed to convince the Arabs to return to the negotiating table before the evictees' fate was resolved.

"The proof is that no date has been set until this moment for the convening of the next round of negotiations," he said.

Dr. Rantisi urged the chief Palestinian negotiator in the talks to make no concessions when he met Mr. Christopher Tuesday.

He was he had twice tried to call Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, from a cellular telephone sneaked to the camp but could not reach him. "I want to salute him for his stands and urge him not to take any positions not in line with the decisions of the deportees," he said.

In Damascus, four Palestinian groups Tuesday rejected the compromise proposals offered by Mr. Christopher.

A deal would legitimise further expulsions, they said in a statement.

They urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to join them in rejecting the compromise and asked Palestinian peace negotiators to withdraw from peace talks with Israel.

The group — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front and the Popular Struggle Front — said all expellees should go home immediately.

Kuwaiti women demand their rights

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier pleas with the interior minister got permission for bus drivers who left the emirate after the invasion to return, while others managed to find jobs with private companies for half the money they earned in government jobs before the invasion.

But the stigma and the identity crisis remains with the children who in many cases do not know they are not Kuwaitis like their mothers.

"When I told my five-year-old daughter she was Iraqi, she burst tears and ran to her room," said Ghania Al Khudair.

Ms. Khudair, who is married an Iraqi born in Kuwait, was optimistic the parliament was going to come through for the men.

There isn't enough interest in problems, we are women and men are next to nothing here," said.

Ms. Nasrallah, 42, said she

Iraq armed with will to survive

By Harish Chandola

BAGHDAD — The remembrance last week of the more than 400 people who perished in an American missile attack at Baghdad's Ameriyah bomb shelter two years ago not only symbolized the suffering of the Iraqi people straining under international sanctions but also the will of the Iraqi nation to survive against all odds.

Outside, the two-metre thick concrete shell stood intact as it did on Jan. 17, 1991, when it was opened for the people of a west Baghdad middle-class suburb to take refuge in, specifically at night when the American warplanes struck.

Inside, the pillar-beamed vast interior was all charred, and the smell of death had not left it even after two years.

On the burnt walls hung photographs of those incinerated in it, family-by-family: nine children of Ghada Qassim, nine family members of Eman Naeif Ahmad, six of Balkis Hassani, six of Nawar Judi, six of Yahya Mohammad Mushed, five of Hamidiye Abid, and so on.

On that fateful day when two missiles tore through the seemingly impenetrable roof at four in the morning when all were asleep, it was the birthday of Eman Naeif Ahmad, and the new white dress she did not get to wear formed the centrepiece of her martyred family's photographs.

Surviving family members sobbed as they lit candles on the ground under the pictures, and the sobs grew into a wail as they came out to sit under a canopy for a memorial service.

The canopy was put up because it had started raining and grew cold. Even the sky seemed unable to control its tears for the sacred innocents.

The spokesman of the American forces in the Gulf had described the air strike as a "pin-point bombing of a military target."

But when you looked up at the hole blasted through the concrete roof, shredding its reinforced iron bars, you wondered if a large locomotive had come crashing through it. It was certainly not a pin that had fallen through.

Then there was the deep, four-metre radius crater on the shelter floor.

No pinpoint ever took so many lives and wreaked such devastation.

The American satellites and planes bombing Baghdad for a whole month by then supported by some of the best surveillance technology must surely have seen women in their colourful clothes going in and coming out of the shelter daily. How could they have taken it for a military target?

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Rabbani

(Continued from page 1)

forward by Hezb-e-Islami were "negotiable." He declined to give details of the conditions.

Hezb-e-Islami has previously insisted that Mr. Rabbani step down, accusing him of coming to

power by rigging his election by an assembly of nationwide representatives last December.

It has demanded elections within one year and an interim government.

Interior Minister Ahmad Shah said Mr. Hekmatyar should accept the assembly's decision, end its blockade of the roads to

Kabul and hand over its heavy weapons to an authorised commission under international guarantees. He gave no details.

"If Hezb-e-Islami meets these conditions they will be included in the government," Mr. Shah said.

The fierce fighting over the last month had prevented Mr. Rabbani from naming a prime minister and a cabinet to govern Afghanistan during his two-year tenure, Mr. Shah said.

The cabinet must be approved by the 205-member parliament, chosen from the 1,300 delegates

Sports

Tracy Austin makes comeback Graf, Capriati pull out of Evert Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (Agencies) — Tracy Austin, once a teen age phenom and now an old lady of 30, returned to tournament tennis Tuesday for the first time in four years.

Injuries forced her to retire in 1984, and a car accident curtailed a previous comeback in 1989.

"I've prepared as best as I can," she said Monday. "It's a nice feeling to know I've done everything I can."

Austin says this isn't a full fledged comeback. She has no tournaments lined up past this week's Evert Cup, which no one expects her to win.

However, the path to the finals of the 376,000 tournament got easier since both Steffi Graf and Jennifer Capriati withdrew because of injuries. That leaves Mary Joe Fernandez, ranked seventh in the world, as the top seed and biggest name.

Retired tennis great Chris Evert tried unsuccessfully to entice Monica Seles and Martina Navratilova, who met in a three-set final in Paris Sunday, to play in the tournament carrying her name.

Seles, who had already turned down an offer to play in the Evert Cup once, would not accept Evert's call and the 36-year-old Navratilova, who beat Seles in Paris, cited fatigue from three consecutive tournaments on two different continents.

Austin hasn't had a world ranking since 1983, when she was ninth. She burst on the scene in

1977 as a 14 year old with a two-handed backhand and ferocious groundstrokes.

Her career included several firsts: The youngest player to win the U.S. Open at age 16 in 1979; ending Chris Evert's 125 match clay court winning streak in 1979; becoming the then youngest athlete to reach \$1 million in career earnings at age 17 in 1980.

Gone are the braces, pigtail, pinafore dresses and Jack Kramer wooden racket that spawned thousands of Austin wannabes.

Not everything has changed, though. Fans will recognize Austin's game — she'll be camped at the baseline swinging her two-handed backhand.

"They'll say, 'that's the same old game I remember,'" Austin said, laughing. "You won't see a serve and volleyer."

Also gone are many of Austin's opponents from the late 1970s and early '80s.

Evert, Andrea Jaeger and Hana Mandlikova have retired. Martina Navratilova, Pam Shriver and Zina Garrison Jackson skipped this event.

That leaves of new — and much younger — faces in the locker room.

Austin's first-round opponent in the Evert Cup is Renate Stubbs, a 21-year-old Australian who still was dreaming of a pro-career when Austin dominated the '90s.

"In the '80s it was knee injuries. Now it's part of the nouveau crowd with Goran Ivanisevic, Aaron Krickstein and Sampras suffering from it."

Austin retired in February 1984

since recurring neck and back injuries. She did not play

singles in another tour event until March 7, 1989, at the Virginia Slims of Indian Wells.

Sampras pulls out, Washington, Gilbert advance

Top seed and world number two Pete Sampras withdrew from the \$300,000 men's tennis tournament here Monday with a stress fracture of the right ankle that may sideline him for up to two months.

In first-round action on the court, third seed Malvai Washington beat fellow American Doug Flach 6-4, 7-6 (7-3)

and fifth seed Brad Gilbert struggled a bit before defeating Italy's Renzo Furlan 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

But the two winners had more to say after their matches about the recently chosen U.S. Davis Cup team — Washington unapologetic that he was not chosen and Gilbert grateful he was.

Sampras told a press conference he suffered an apparent stress fracture of the right ankle and was heading home to Tampa, Florida, to rest.

Gilbert, a semifinalist in this event last year, said Sampras was suffering from the injury of the '90s.

"In the '80s it was knee injuries. Now it's part of the nouveau crowd with Goran Ivanisevic, Aaron Krickstein and Sampras suffering from it."

Austin retired in February 1984

since recurring neck and back injuries. She did not play

U.S. Davis Cup team confident

NEW YORK (R) — Though spurned by the four superstars who won him the Davis Cup last year, U.S.-Captain Tom Gorman still feels good about his all-new team's chances next month in their first-round match to Australia.

"I'm confident that we can win," Gorman told Reuters in a phone interview from his Palm Springs, California, home Monday.

On Friday, U.S. Davis Cup officials announced Brad Gilbert, David Wheaton and the doubles pair of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg would play for the United States in the March 26-28 matches on the Kooyong Club grass courts in Melbourne.

Those names hardly rank with last year's winning team, but world number one Jim Courier, number two Pete Sampras and Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi all turned Gorman down. The fourth member of last year's team, John McEnroe, is currently not playing and had announced he would not be available.

Michael Chang and Ivan Lendl also turned down preliminary inquiries.

Gilbert, 31, has a 10-3 Davis Cup singles record. Wheaton, 23, Grabb, 28, and Reneberg, 27, will be making their Cup debuts.

"I know the players are very, very excited and are going to be very dedicated to go down there and win," Gorman said. "They're confident they can do it and so am I."

"1990 was 1992," Gorman said. "There might be some similarity to the U.S. Olympic basketball 'dream team.' They may never get back together again and the team we had in 1991 may or may not play together again."

Last week Agassi had indicated he was troubled by the travel demands of a trip to Australia in the middle of a cluttered playing schedule.

"I'm disappointed they said no," Gorman said. "As I told them, I was disappointed, but I also respect why they weren't going and their reasons."

None of them, however, said no to the possibility of playing future cup matches this year, according to Gorman.

The U.S.-Australia winner will meet the winner of the Brazil-Italy match.

Though Gilbert is only ranked 27th and Wheaton 50th, both have had good success through their careers against their expected Australian foes: Wally Masur, Mark Woodforde or even Pat Cash.

Gilbert has a 6-2 career record against Masur. The two have split two matches on grass, with Gilbert winning at Wimbledon two years ago and Masur winning at last year's Wimbledon. Gilbert is 1-1 against Woodforde but has lost five of eight times against Cash.

Wheaton, a 1991 Wimbledon semifinalist, is 2-0 against both Masur and Woodforde and has never played Cash.

Grabb and Reneberg lost in the Wimbledon final last year before winning the U.S. Open title.

When I started playing Chris Evert regularly, the public was always behind her," she said. "That was tough for me. But now, and for the past three years, they're with me. It's fantastic, it makes you want to go on, to fight and to win."

"I wouldn't have carried on for the last two years if I hadn't had the crowds behind me like this."

Navratilova, disappointed her Paris fans by saying she would not return to contest the French Open this year, a tournament she had missed for the past four years already.

"If I played the French, I wouldn't have time to prepare for Wimbledon," she said. "The two tournaments are so close and the preparation for them is so different."

Navratilova said she would already have retired had not she enjoyed the sentimental support of the public, who cheered her every shot against Seles.

Bowe visits Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe saw hungry Somalis in this devastated and filthy capital Monday, but the one thing that convinced him U.S. soldiers had it rough was hot soda.

"You know it's hard when these guys are drinking hot soda," Bowe said while brushing away flies during lunch with Marines and army troops.

Hardened soldiers grimed like schoolboys and posed with Bowe during his four-hour visit to Mogadishu with Americare, a U.S. relief agency.

The WBA and IBF champion also visited a feeding centre operated by the Irish Relief Agency Concern. Tiny Somali children sang for him, and he gave his cap to an emaciated 13-year-old girl who smiled with pleasure.

"I'm very happy to see him and we are happy to welcome him," said Abdi Mohamed Abiker Adon, whose arms were barely thicker than Bowe's thumb. "He looks like he's really interested to see us."

An Irish nurse showed Bowe around the centre and introduced him to Abdi, 23-year-old Valerie Place, was slain by gunmen later in the day in a roadside ambush about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Mogadishu.

Bowe had left Somalia when news of her killing reached Mogadishu.

John Rieth, executive director of Americare, said Bowe paid \$94,000 to charter a flight from New York to Nairobi that also carried \$1.8 million worth of medicine to be distributed in Somalia and Kenya.

Bowe said he also wanted to give a morale boost to U.S. troops securing Somalia so relief agencies can distribute food and medicine to millions in need.

"Perhaps I can make the troops feel a little better," he said after landing in a C-130 transport plane, accompanied by his wife Judy and an entourage of publicists, photographers and bodyguards.

He put on a camouflage flak jacket and helmet, commenting "it's heavy," and was asked for the first of several hundred times when he would fight Lennox Lewis, the WBC champion.

"I guess when he gets enough heart," was the stock reply, always drawing laughs. Bowe said he expected to fight former champion Evander Holyfield, who was defeated last year to win the title, in a rematch in late June.

Bowe was to stop at a refugee centre in Kenya later Monday, then go to Nairobi. Before heading home, he was scheduled to stop in Rome to meet the Pope, a member of his entourage said.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1993

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sure

as you may be of your position, may be it's really wisest to bite your tongue this morning. Words have a way of popping out in the most unfortunate way during

Moon's square to Mars.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Start the day off making contact with those at a distance but soon you find a private anxiety causes you to put efforts in that direction.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20)

Your intuitions show you the way to enjoy yourself early while soon you find that an acquaintance brings some tension that requires undivided attention.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Have an interesting time early with a fascinating associate but soon you find an outside condition is disturbing and it requires your diplomatic handling.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21)

You have early good ideas for your future well-being while tonight finds tensions beneath your own roof that require congenial comrade difficult to understand.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Decide early future relations with both friends and partners while in the afternoon you find money matters perplexing, needing attention.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Early you see ways to update, uplift your environmental conditions but soon after you are discontented, nothing seems to go as you had expected.

Soccer is latest victim of Albanian poverty

TIRANA (AP) — Albania's absolute poverty has undermined one of the last diversions left for its beleaguered citizens: soccer.

A strike by referees over what they say is their absurdly low pay has halted national championship play in mid season. Poorly paid players threaten to join them.

As sheep grazed on the country's idle soccer fields, representatives of the government, referees and sports groups met Monday to try to end the week old walkout.

There are fears that the strike could jeopardise Albania's standing with the European Football Association.

"We are conscious of the poverty Albania is going through in this transition period, but our situation is very desperate," said referee Higmet Kuka.

Like every other segment of Albanian society, public sports organisations are feeling the crunch as the newly democratic government struggles with the legacy of decades of brutal Stalinist rule and economic mismanagement.

The football federation has become an emigration office," complained the national team coach, Dejkush Direct, before Albania's 2-1 loss to Northern Ireland last week in a World Cup qualifier.

Northern Ireland's soccer chief later protested to FIFA, the International Soccer Federation, about conditions for the game.

Team officials said they arrived in Tirana to find their hotel could accommodate only half their party. They said others were taken to another hotel that had cardboard windows, no running water and inadequate toilet facilities.

They have asked the government for a 25 per cent raise, to no avail so far.

One well-known Albanian soccer player, Alfonz Muca, said the strike is justified and players might soon join it.

"All of us are on the eve of a strike," he said. "Our pay only amounts to \$12 a month, equal to the lowest salary in our country."

The average salary in Albania, a mostly rural Balkan country of 3.2 million people, is \$20 to \$25 a month.

Although players are poorly paid, soccer has been a ticket out of Albania for those talented enough to catch the attention and visa sponsorship — of foreign teams.

Local officials estimate that about 300 Albanians now play abroad.

"The football federation has become an emigration office," complained the national team coach, Dejkush Direct, before Albania's 2-1 loss to Northern Ireland last week in a World Cup qualifier.

Soccer referees say they cannot survive on their current pay, the equivalent of about \$3 a game, and a per diem of \$1.20 when they must travel. All of them work part time and do not get regular salaries.

They have asked the government for a 25 per cent raise, to no avail so far.

Unscrupulous fans four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THE BETTER HALF,

BY GLASBERGEN

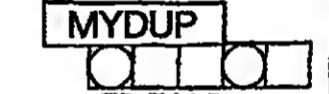


"My diet worked! I lost eight pounds!"

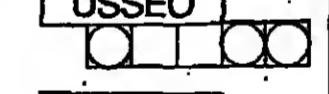
JUMBLE

Uncross these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYDUP



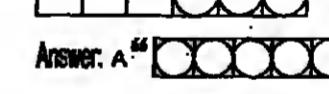
USSEO



LADRIA



REBAWE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Jumbles: VISOR CRANK SUBLTY OCELOT

Answer: What the Texas cattleman sought on Wall Street—LIVE STOCK

(Answers tomorrow)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.</p

Taiwan economy shows

Clinton vows to promote technology to help economic growth in U.S.

JPEI (R) — Taiwan's gross national product (GNP) growth was 6.6 per cent last year and 7.24 per cent in 1991 as the weakness of the global economy hit the island's export boom, the government has said. "Growth will mainly be because of slower expansion in exports," said Hsu in-Yen, a senior official at the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics. But the economy showed signs of picking up again in the fourth quarter of 1992, when GNP grew 9.7 per cent from a year earlier compared to 5.16 per cent in the third quarter, the directorate said. It predicted GNP growth would rise further to 6.35 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (R) — President Bill Clinton, on the road again to push his economic programme, unveiled a plan Monday aimed at strengthening the economy by placing greater emphasis on expanding the frontiers of U.S. technology.

Mr. Clinton said a priority would be to link businesses, schools, libraries, hospitals and government agencies across the United States by computerised "information highways." Speaking to employees at Silicon Graphics, which makes high-performance visual computing systems and is one of the leading U.S. companies, Mr. Clinton said he was determined to keep the United States "on the cutting

edge of change."

His visit to the plant came on the second and final day of a campaign-style trip to the west coast to whip up public support for his economic revival proposals.

It was his second such trip since Wednesday night when he outlined the package — which includes higher taxes, spending cuts and job growth incentives — in a speech to Congress.

Following up his western swing, Mr. Clinton was to visit the Everett, Washington, facilities of the Boeing Co., which announced last week it will eliminate 28,000 jobs in the next 18 months because of slumping orders from airlines.

The technology programme announced Monday includes:

— Permanent extension of a research and experimentation tax credit "to sustain incentives for the rework so essential to new developments"

— Investment in a national information infrastructure and establishment of a task force working with the private sector to design a policy that will ensure

rapid introduction of new communication technology

— Accelerating investment in advanced manufacturing technologies that promote U.S. industrial competitiveness

— Reestablishing the technological leadership and competitiveness of the American auto industry

— Improving technology for education and training and

— Investing in energy-efficient federal buildings.

The president was accompanied by Vice President Al Gore, who took the lead in outlining the new policy and will play a key role in overseeing administration efforts to encourage and promote innovative, leading-edge industries.

Mr. Clinton singled out Japan for criticism over its trade surplus with America, saying he would continue to press Tokyo to open its markets to foreign goods.

"It is the only nation with which we have a persistent and unchanging structural deficit," Mr. Clinton said.

"What we have to do is to try to continue to help more companies to figure out how to do business there and keep pushing them to open their markets," he said. "I don't want to close American markets to Japanese products."

Utilising the television talk-show format common to his 1992 campaign and early presidency, Mr. Clinton perched on a stool and held a wireless microphone as he and Mr. Gore chatted informally with the high-technology workers.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore saw examples of the innovation they want to promote during a tour of

the Silicon Graphics plant that involved some of the electronics wizardry that made the firm one of the fastest growing U.S. companies.

But that is not the case with many firms in California, which is home to many large defence contractors and has been mired for three years in a recession made worse by cutbacks in U.S. military spending.

With more than 1.4 million people out of work, the state's unemployment rate hovers at 9.5 per cent — well above the U.S. average.

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S. Arabia going ahead with oil expansion plan

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, is going ahead with a \$20 billion plan to expand oil facilities and boost crude output capacity by 10 million barrels per day (b/d).

It had agreed earlier this month

to cut production by 500,000 b/d

from March to eight million b/d

as part of OPEC-wide output

curbs to shore up prices.

But Gulf oil and financial

sources said this did not affect

the kingdom's determination to boost

capacity.

"They are looking at the 21st century. They think higher capacity is necessary for them to maintain their pre-eminence and guarantee their economic future," one Gulf source said.

Saudi officials deny that a 1994 target has been set for achieving the 10 million b/d capacity, saying their plans are flexible and depend on market outlook. They say that only new capacity will be ready by the mid-1990s.

Officials dismiss reports that

the kingdom, suffering increasing budget deficits, was finding it difficult to finance Aramco's expansion plans.

But a comment by Finance Minister Mohammed Abal Khalil at the same conference in Bahrain raised speculation that Aramco may go to world markets for additional financing.

Speaking at an economic conference in Bahrain last week, Ali

oil companies are entering world capital markets to finance these new investments."

Aramco's domestic expansion plans so far have been financed domestically and foreign loans used to finance overseas operations or projects such as the expansion of its oil tanker fleet, they added.

Sheikh Abal Khalil also raised the prospect of private participation in the country's oil industry outside state control, which remains a state preserve.

Virtually all oil-related industry has so far been confined to state enterprises but Sheikh Abal Khalil said the role of private investment, both foreign and domestic, will grow.

This was because "the petro-industrial sector will be growing both in extent and diversity (and) because there are also new and very promising opportunities in industries that are indirectly related to the petroleum industry," he added.

He mentioned in particular production plans for environmentally-friendly oil products and companies that service the oil industry directly or in directly.

Oman to start gold production next year

DUBAI (R) — Oman will start producing gold from the beginning of 1984 at a rate of 500 kilogramme a year, the Omani News Agency quoted an official as saying. It quoted Mohammad Bin Hussein Al Yafei, director-general of the minerals department at the petroleum and minerals ministry, as saying that by 1995 gold production in Oman would reach 750 kilogrammes. It said Mr. Yafei was speaking in an interview with the local newspaper Al Watan. He said the Oman Minerals Company would start the project in the beginning of next year by exploiting estimated reserves of 650,000 tonnes of sulphide copper deposits with five per cent gold content.

Unilever profits top £2b

LONDON (R) — Anglo-Dutch food-to-detergents group Unilever PLC/N.V. Tuesday said pre-tax profits for 1992 topped the £2 billion level.

The pre-tax figure was up 13 per cent including exchange rate benefits to £2.029 billion (£2.96 billion from £1.792 billion (£2.61 billion)) mainly due to further gains in consumer food products such as ice cream and personal care products.

Sales were also higher at £24.7 billion (£35.97 billion) against £23.16 billion (£33.73 billion) last year.

Operating margins were unchanged at 8.6 per cent with a small decline in Europe offset by improvements elsewhere.

"This overall progress contains a number of contrasting performances as our business faced varying trading conditions in different regions," Unilever said in a statement.

Consumer products posted higher volumes during the year but due to lack of growth in industrial markets and the effect of disposals, total sales growth was constrained.

Profits rose in food businesses, notably ice cream, and Unilever said that in the Mediterranean area good results confirmed prospects for growth.

In detergents, profits were lower because of heightened competition and increased marketing spending.

paying as the obligations matured in coming years. He gave no figure for next year.

The foreign exchange reform is a key part of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's plan to reverse Iran's war-damaged economy.

The government would stop supplying most public agencies and priority industries dollars at the concessionary rates of about 70 and 600 riyals, leaving them to buy their needs at a floating rate currently about 1,500 riyals.

A dollar fetches about 1,580 riyals on the black market.

Economists predict a sharp rise in prices as a result of the devaluation and voice doubts about the government's ability to prevent the riyal from sliding further.

Mr. Nourbakhsh said that the budget law would force public agencies to cut sharply foreign exchange expenditures by restricting their riyal allocations.

Mr. Nourbakhsh said the budget law restricted the riyal allocations of public agencies, forcing them into sharp cuts in foreign exchange expenditures.

Apart from defence and basic foods, fuel and medicine imports — which will get a total \$3.8 billion at subsidised rates — other public sector agencies will be allocated only 1,000 riyals for each dollar of their hard cash needs, he said.

"We are very hopeful about the success of this policy because we think that we can prevent turmoil in the market by abundant supply (of hard currency) and controlling the demand of government agencies at a set level," Mr. Nourbakhsh said.

Four banks sue big Kuwaiti firm on loan default

MANAMA (R) — Four banks are suing one of Kuwait's biggest corporate concerns, Ynsaf Ahmed Al Ghazim, for defaulting on loans, a banking source said Monday.

"There has been a loan outstanding since before the Gulf crisis. We did not make any attempts to ask for our money back until the crisis was over," he said, adding that when the war ended in 1991 the company was not forthcoming.

He confirmed many of the details reported Monday in the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), which said four banks had a total of \$45 million in loans and interest due from Al Ghazim.

The banks were named as the Netherlands' ASN-Amro N.V. Bank; of Tokyo Ltd, Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank and London-based United Bank of Kuwait. All have substantial interests in the Gulf but are based outside Kuwait.

The banking source was unable to provide details on the legal action but MEES said the banks had lodged a petition with English courts earlier in February to wind up the Kuwaiti concern.

The MEES report said a London court was due to hear their petition on March 24.

As agents for the American giant General Motors Corp. Al Ghazim runs one of the biggest car operations in Kuwait, whose customers can buy on credit.

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U.S. informs NATO Bosnia airdrops to start in days

BRUSSELS (R) — The United States has told NATO it will start to parachute relief supplies to tens of thousands of people in Bosnia cut off from aid within the next few days, alliance sources said Tuesday.

NATO's military authorities were also looking at ways of supporting the U.S. relief effort, perhaps by making airfields available or using alliance surveillance planes to monitor the operation, the sources told Reuters.

Washington announced its decision to begin the airdrops in a memo to the 16-nation Western alliance, the sources said.

"The Americans are going to start the drops in the next few days, in places where aid has not got through in Bosnia," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

In Geneva, a U.N. spokeswoman welcomed the U.S. decision, which has not yet been announced officially, to parachute relief supplies into eastern Bosnia, where 100,000 Muslims are said to be facing starvation.

"Anything that gets food to the people is worth trying," Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told a news briefing.

A NATO spokesman would say only that the United States was considering such an option. He refused to speculate on whether NATO could be involved.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to give more details of the operation when he meets NATO foreign ministers in Brussels Friday.

The UNHCR, which leads U.N. relief operations in former

Yugoslavia, had raised the idea of dropping food and medical supplies to isolated eastern enclaves in talks with donor countries over several months, Ms. Foa said.

Rugged terrain, the potential danger of relief aircraft being shot at and the possible need for reinforcement by ground troops had ruled out the airdrop option so far, she added.

Two U.N. aid convoys entered eastern Bosnia Tuesday and headed for the blockaded Muslim towns of Gorazde and Tuzla in a test of Serb promises to cooperate with relief efforts.

"The Americans are going to start the drops in the next few days, in places where aid has not got through in Bosnia," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

The UNHCR suspended aid deliveries briefly last week because convoys were halted by Serb fighters while Muslim authorities in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo staged a protest boycott of U.N. humanitarian relief.

U.S. officials said in Washington Monday that President Bill Clinton has decided to go ahead with the aid drops, but that he was consulting with the United Nations and Western leaders before making the announcement.

U.S. Navy warplanes, based on an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean, are expected to protect the aid flights. NATO sources said U.S. C-130 transport aircraft flying from major bases in Germany would probably be used to make the drops.

NATO surveillance planes, which are monitoring a U.N.-no-fly zone over Bosnia from positions above Hungary and the Adriatic, could be used to warn

the carrier-based fighters of any attack.

Germany has welcomed the U.S. plan.

Britain welcomes and is considering helping United States plans for aid airdrops into eastern Bosnia, a Foreign Office spokesman said Tuesday.

"They asked for our support and they asked for our participation," the British spokesman said.

He said the request from Washington was received Monday night and Britain was considering how best it could help the effort.

"We have warmly welcomed and supported their intention to step up contributions to humanitarian relief efforts through airdrops to communities in special need notably in eastern Bosnia as supplement to the main airlift and road convoy operations," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said Tuesday his country would take part in U.S.-led airdrops to get relief supplies to isolated Bosnian Muslims.

"If airdrops to assist inaccessible regions in Bosnia-Herzegovina are decided on, Turkey will take part," Anatolian News Agency quoted Mr. Demirel as saying.

Meanwhile the latest convoys sent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Belgrade hoped to reach their destinations later Tuesday despite heavy snowfalls which made Bosnia's road treacherous.

Sarajevo was quiet overnight but Croatian radio said defence lines around the town of Karlo-

vac, south of Zagreb, were hit by Serb mortar bombs.

Zapajne, in eastern Croatia, was shelled across the border with Bosnia by Serb forces, it added.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said there was no need for parachute drops and that the halting of two convoys last week was due to special circumstances.

Tension in east Bosnia was high ahead of the mass funeral Monday of 38 Serb fighters killed by Muslims close to the route used by convoys.

Serb pathologists said most of the soldiers were captured alive before they were killed.

Mr. Karadzic said at the funeral in the town of Zvornik that the killings made it impossible for Serbs and Muslims to live together again as brothers in Bosnia.

He said his people sought an end to the civil war but accused Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's Muslim-led government of wanting to continue the conflict.

"The Muslim side is still preparing for war," Mr. Karadzic said.

Mr. Karadzic said his self-proclaimed republic would send a team to peace talks in New York but he would not be heading it.

Sarajevo Radio said the Bosnian government was also dispatching a delegation to the New York talks.

The radio said Mr. Izetbegovic had accepted an invitation to visit the United States. It was not clear whether the president would lead his country's team at the peace negotiations or hold separate talks with the U.S. administration.

U.S. senators and representatives, who are usually ready to call U.N. funds in favour of spending in their home districts, may balk at the report's recommendation that the U.N. should be given authority to charge interest on late payments.

The United States owes the regular U.N. budget of \$240 million, nearly half of the total in overdue payments to the U.N. system owed by all member-states.



The U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to establish a war crimes tribunal on ex-Yugoslavia. The tribunal will deal with those allegedly responsible, since 1991, for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the Balkans (AFP photo)

Russian defence minister marks Armed Forces Day; warns of subversion

MOSCOW (R) — Defence Minister Pavel Grachev accused nationalist dissident officers of trying to undermine the Russian army and win power in the country.

In a television interview to mark Armed Forces Day Tuesday, he said the high command would not allow the military to be used for political purposes.

"They want to shake up, split the army, blow it up from inside to achieve their well-known ambitions," Mr. Grachev said.

"These people, striving for power, should understand once and for all: Any attempts to draw the armed forces into the political struggle are criminal and fraught with danger."

Mr. Grachev, whose interview was shown late Monday and re-broadcast Tuesday, joined other government leaders in the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Kremlin walls.

But President Boris Yeltsin, the armed forces commander-in-chief, stayed away.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, asked the reason, told reporters: "The president is on holiday, he also has the right to rest."

Mr. Yeltsin, 62, who is en-

gaged in a power struggle with the Russian parliament, moved to a villa just outside Moscow last Monday for a 12-day winter break. But he broke his holiday Thursday for talks with parliament Chairman Ruslan Khabsatov.

Feb. 23, originally marking the founding of the Soviet army in 1918, is the biggest festival of the year.

Traditionally Soviet leaders

appeared at the wreath-laying on the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Mr. Yeltsin did so last year.

In his television interview, Mr. Grachev discussed a range of military themes, including corruption in the armed forces.

He said 3,000 officers, including two regional commanders, had been disciplined for corruption and 46 generals and other officers were facing prosecution.

Despite this, Mr. Grachev said the armed forces were under control and were the only well-organized and reliable force in society.

But he denounced a group of officers who attended a meeting of pro-Communists and hardline nationalists at the weekend in uniform and called for the defence minister's resignation.

"Otherwise we will lose the Black Sea," he said.

Former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, awaiting trial for his part in an August 1991 abortive coup, lauded the break-up of the Soviet Union and loss of its army in an interview with the former Communist Party daily Pravda.

"I assume that the break up of the Soviet army and state was carried out in the interests of NATO and of those blocs which are under the wing of the U.S.A.," he said.

"Otherwise we will lose the Black Sea," he said.

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COLUMN 10

Hospital operates on lung patient's liver in error

TOKYO (R) — A man with a diseased lung awoke from surgery to hear that doctors had removed part of his healthy liver by mistake, a Japanese hospital spokesman said. The error occurred after two patients due for different operations at the time were wheeled into the wrong theatres, said the spokesman for Kumamoto Municipal Hospital in southwest Japan. One surgeon had already removed part of the lung patient's liver when he realized there was nothing wrong with it. He quickly notified his colleague in the adjoining theatre who had already opened his liver patient's chest but not yet begun work on the lung. The two patients later underwent the correct operations and were now out of hospital, the spokesman said.

"The command will not permit any split in military ranks or servicemen to take part in political experiments and battles," Mr. Grachev said. "The military want, above all, stability."

The defence minister said military reform was proceeding though with difficulty.

Asked about the Russian troops based in Abkhazia, a breakaway province of Georgia, Mr. Grachev said they had to stay there to protect Russia's strategic interests.

"Otherwise we will lose the Black Sea," he said.

Former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, awaiting trial for his part in an August 1991 abortive coup, lauded the break-up of the Soviet Union and loss of its army in an interview with the former Communist Party daily Pravda.

"We had a very fulfilling, happy and wonderful life as a bachelor," the future emperor said in a televised news conference broadcast Tuesday. "I've done almost everything that I wanted to do."

He used a mountain-climbing metaphor to describe his approaching marriage to Ms. Owada, the culmination of years of increasingly desperate searching for a royal bride. "I have just reached a peak in my life," he told reporters. "I would like to climb the next peak as a couple."

Chinese films share Golden Bear at Berlin Festival

BERLIN (R) — China won Golden Bear Awards for best picture at the Berlin Film Festival — only the second time in its 43-year history that two films have shared the top honour.

Meanwhile, South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) spokesman said the party will apologise for a smear campaign depicting defeated opposition presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung as a Communist sympathiser.

The main opposition Democratic Party (DP), formerly led by Kim Dae-Jung, had threatened to boycott Thursday's inauguration of his rival candidate Kim Young-Sam as president unless the apology was made.

A few embarrassments - but Clinton meeting to be a boost for Major

LONDON (AP) — Despite the embarrassment of his party's efforts to keep President Bill Clinton from winning the election, Prime Minister John Major heads to Washington Tuesday for a rare political boost.

Talks and dinner Wednesday, spanning six hours, will be Mr. Clinton's first meeting with a European leader since his inauguration and the first time he and the British Conservative Party leader have talked face to face.

Differences over how to end the war in Bosnia will top the agenda, as well as British reservations about Mr. Clinton's pledge to allow negotiations with the Serbs.

Mr. Major's aides say the trip was sanctioned by Conservative Party Chairman Sir Norman Fowler, who didn't tell Mr. Major.

Another embarrassment for Mr. Major was a travesty of British bureaucracy through records to find out whether Mr. Clinton had applied for British citizenship to escape the Vietnam draft while a student at Oxford. He hadn't. British officials said they were responding to inquiries from reporters.

The Labour Party, bitter at what it regards as partisan support for Margaret Thatcher by President Ronald Reagan, says Mr. Major should have ordered an inquiry into the Clinton investigation.

With Mr. Major's popularity slumping in a nation dispirited by three years of recession and rising crime, the prospect of a red-carpet treatment in Washington is reassuring.

But among commentators there was blunt acknowledgement that the meeting means a lot more to Mr. Major than to Mr. Clinton.

Peter Riddell, political editor of the Times of London, said the

British officials hope the two politicians of the same generation get to know each other and focus on foreign policy issues.

But even there, potholes loom.

British officials say Mr. Clinton has backed off initial signs of being prepared to arm Bosnian Muslims, enforce a no-fly-zone and possibly dispatch American ground troops. And they are not keen on the prospect of U.S. air drops of humanitarian aid to Muslims cut off by Serbs.

The Clinton administration is discussing the subject Tuesday with U.N. chief Boutros Ghali.

"It is not a way we would have thought of for delivering aid," a senior Major aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Monday.

Also, Britain's administration of Northern Ireland and the support of some U.S. groups for the outlawed Irish Republican Army remains a touchy subject.

But so far, Mr. Clinton has backed off sending a peace envoy, and Britain has not objected to reported plans to dispatch a fact-finding mission led by an Irish-American politician providing it's one with an anti-IRA record.

On trade, Mr. Clinton has talked tough about cutting European Community subsidies, but Mr. Major has the best chance of any EC leader to mediate that dispute.

SEATTLE (R) — A teenage boy donated \$1,000 from his earnings to the U.S. government to help cut its huge deficit, prompting President Bill Clinton to thank him Monday for the "remarkable gesture."

Larry Villetta, 14, of Fargo, North Dakota, donated the money from a tree and shrub-sprinkling business he runs, he said.

He spent some of the money on AIDS research, education and other programmes.

"I really appreciate it," Mr. Clinton told the youth during a telephone call while en route to seminar